[226] with water despite themselves. Sea water in their nose bothers them
●225 a great deal. [395] When the Caribs see a pair of tortoises they give a shout and immediately jump into a canoe. Approaching the tortoises very quietly they slip a cord around the flipper of the male which they are only able to catch in this way, unless they use harpoons. The female is sometimes captured by a cord and sometimes by harpooning, but usually females are captured on the beach where they go to lay eggs. [195] To catch manatee, tortoise, and other big sea animals the fisherman called the harpooner takes his little canoe and goes to the place where the fishing is to be done. He takes with him a long straight pole as long as a halberd, at the end of which is the nail for harpooning. There is a line attached to the harpoon. The harpooner stands on the prow of the canoe and is accompanied by two seamen. One of these men paddles quietly until they are within a reasonable distance of the animal. The harpooner pierces it with his hurled harpoon, while the second seaman lets the line run against the side of the canoe until the animal has exhausted his energy and given up his fury. Then he draws the line back, while the animal resists, and the canoe soon reaches it. The harpooner being prepared hurla a second harpoon while once again the line is let run. The animal being held fast is brought into the canoe or towed to the sloop. Here it is dressed and salted. [359] The tail of the ray is its defense and it is very dangerous. I have seen a Carib who had harpooned one and attempted to seize it too soon and was stung. He was not able to use his hand one year after, although it looked cured. [143]

226 There are shallow rocks which are very dangerous to ships. In calm weather the Caribs go to fish there because that is where the fish ordinarily feed. [131]

There is a weed called conámi which sometimes comes up in gardens so abundantly that they are ruined by it. They crush this weed on a rock and then stir it in stagnant water. The fish which smell it jump, sometimes even above the water, and then die. After they have taken the fish the Caribs eat them without suffering any ill effects. When the Caribs are hungry and the sea is stormy they say "lets go to poison the river." Eels are caught in the same way. [177]

To fish for coulirou the Caribs make a sisal fiber line spun out like a thread. At one end they fasten a pewter fishhook and they fasten the other end of the line to a rod. They throw in the hook, pull it a little, and then draw it out. They throw it back immediately.